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| **INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:**  1. Please, add official government or ministerial letterhead at the top  2. Replace all text in [BRACKETS] with appropriate information  3. Customize the sections on national commitments and sustainable development goals (SDG) alignment as relevant  4. Add any country-specific experiences or hearing health initiatives in the designated section  5. Obtain official signature  6. Indicate your interest to lead (co-lead) and/or sponsor (co-sponsor) this initiative to the United Nations General Assembly.  7. Send to: [whdworkstream@gmail.com](mailto:whdworkstream@gmail.com)  ***DELETE THIS INSTRUCTION BOX BEFORE SENDING*** |

*[INSERT OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT/MINISTERIAL LETTERHEAD HERE]*

[Date]

**World Hearing Forum | World Hearing Day Workstream**

**Re: Formal Support for Recognition of World Hearing Day as a United Nations International Day**

Dear Co-Chairs of the World Hearing Day Workstream,

On behalf of [COUNTRY/GOVERNMENT/MINISTRY], I/we am pleased to formally express our strong support for the recognition of World Hearing Day (March 3) as an official United Nations International Day. We recognize that hearing health is a critical global public health priority that directly impacts human development, economic prosperity, and social equity.

This initiative aligns closely with our government’s commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 3 on Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 4 on Quality Education, SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities. As highlighted in the World Health Organization’s World Report on Hearing (2021), and supported by 2025 World Health Assembly resolution WHA 78.7, integrated ear and hearing care is essential to universal health coverage and equitable access to health services across the life course.

The global burden of hearing loss is undeniable. With over 1.5 billion people affected worldwide and an annual economic cost exceeding US $980 billion, unaddressed hearing loss creates significant barriers to education, employment, and social participation. These impacts disproportionately affect low- and middle-income countries, where nearly 90% of people with disabling hearing loss reside, often without access to adequate care. Importantly, the evidence demonstrates that nearly 60% of childhood hearing loss is preventable, and that investments in hearing care yield a return of approximately $16 for every dollar spent, making this both a moral imperative and an economically sound investment.

Official recognition of World Hearing Day by the United Nations would elevate hearing health on the global agenda, strengthen political commitment, mobilize resources, and encourage Member States to integrate hearing care into national health policies and programs. For over a decade, World Hearing Day has successfully raised awareness and promoted action. United Nations’ recognition would provide a permanent platform for coordinated international cooperation and ensure that hearing health remains a sustained priority within global health and development frameworks.

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| **OPTIONAL NATIONAL CONTEXT SECTION**  *You may add information about your country's hearing health initiatives, policies, challenges, or commitments below. This could include national screening programs, partnerships with WHO, investments in hearing care infrastructure, or examples of how hearing health supports your national development priorities. If you choose not to include this section, simply delete this box.* |

*[ADD NATIONAL CONTEXT, INITIATIVES, OR COMMITMENTS HERE - OR DELETE THIS SECTION]*

**Our Position:**

[COUNTRY/GOVERNMENT/MINISTRY] *[SELECT ONE: supports / is prepared to lead/ is prepared to co-lead / is prepared to sponsor / is prepared to co-sponsor]* the submission of a draft resolution to the United Nations General Assembly proposing the recognition of World Hearing Day as an official United Nations International Observed Day. We believe this recognition will catalyze meaningful global action, strengthen health systems, and ensure that hearing care becomes an integral component of universal health coverage.

We commend the World Hearing Forum and the World Health Organization for their leadership on this critical issue and stand ready to collaborate with fellow Member States and stakeholders to advance this initiative.

Together, we can ensure that no one is left unheard.

Respectfully,

[Official Signature]

**[Full Name and Title]**

[Ministry/Department]

[Country]